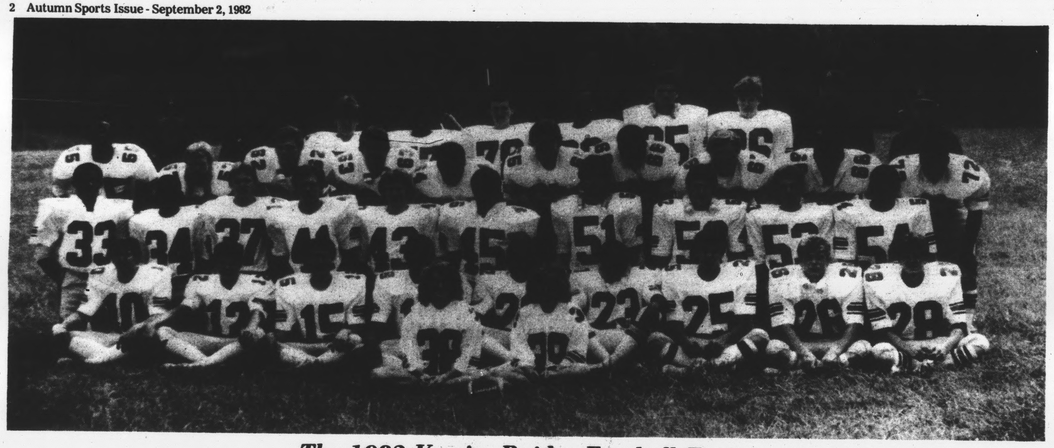


The 1982 Varsity Raider Football Team

Raiders coming off of good summer

It's been a good summer for the Appomattox County High School varsity Raiders football team.

The team, which compiled a 6-3-1 record last season, has progressed well since practice began Aug. 10.

Coach Gary Cuccio, beginning his second year as head coach at Appomattox, says "We've progressed much more rapidly this year than last, and we're pleased with what the boys have learned and the way they've responded to our conditioning program."

The Raiders have good experience at most positions this year, with the exception of their offensive line. "We lost three of our five offensive linemen (Tim Webb, Roy Trent and Chris Dunnam) from last year's team," the coach notes.

Jeff Miller, Tommy Robinson, Robert Paulette and Ricky Miller will all likely see action at offensive tackle this season, according to Cuccio. Tim Bennett, Antoine Morgan and Alphonzo Moore will be pulling duty at the guard posts, and Todd Scruggs and Scott Almond will be used to anchor the offensive line at the center position.

Greg Mayberry and Jay Wingfield will be used as tight ends on offense, according to Cuccio, and Jody Williams, Ricky Turner and Ron Kelso will be used as wide recivers this year.

Allen Edmonds and Petey McIvor will see action from the slotback position, and Rodney Bryant and Gary Ferguson will alternate at the fullback position.

Dennis Fleshman and Steve Hamlett will see action at the tailback position, and Kevin Ferguson and Paul Johnson will be calling the signals at quarterback this season.

On defense, brothers, Jeff and Rick Miller will start at the end positions, and Robert Paulette, Carl Banks and Greg Mayberry will see action at defensive tackle.

The Raiders' linebacker corps will consist of Tim Bennett, Gary Ferguson, Tim Williams and Jay Wingfield, and Rodney Bryant and Tim Williams will play strong safety.

Steve Hamlett, Petey McIvor and Ricky Turner will be used as defensive halfbacks, and Allen Edmonds and Ron Kelso will be used in the safety position.

Offensively, the Raiders will run a variable offense again this year.

"We hope to run and pass equally," Coach Cuccio says. "One of our strengths on offense this year will be our quickness and experience in the offensive backfield."

The Raiders will attempt to stop their opponents using a 5-2 defense this season, according to the coach.

In analyzing the Seminole District this season, Cuccio says "we probably have one of the best balanced districts in the state."

"On any given Friday night, at least eight of the ten teams could come out a winner against any one of the other district teams," the coach explains. "You don't find such balance in many other districts in Virginia," he adds.

Cuccio sees Brookville, Buckingham, William Campbell and Nelson as probable district contenders this season.

"And you can never count Rustburg out," the coach adds. "They always give us a hard game, regardless of what their season has been like up to that point."

The Raiders will face Gretna, a team they defated 8-0 last year, in their season opener Friday night.

"Gretna beat Jefferson Forest near the end of last season," Cuccio notes, "and they've done very well in their scrimmages so far this summer. In the first game of the season, everyone is unbeaten, and everyone plays hard. We expect to face a much improved Gretna team Friday night, one we feel is going to win some ball games this year."

Cuccio has been happy with the manner in which his players have responded to their pre-season training and weight program. In the past two years, the Raiders have been plagued by injuries, and the coach is hoping that the off-season conditioning program will help that problem somewhat.

Against Gretna Friday night, fans can expect to see a wide-open ball game from the Raider offense.

"We're going to try and be a 50-50 team, running and passing about the same amount," Cuccio says.

"The reason for the multiple-set offense is to keep the other team guessing, to prevent them from anticipating what your next play is going to be," the coach notes.

Vital in a multiple-set offense is the performance of the offensive line, where holes are opened and plays are made or stopped.

"How well our offensive line plays together will ultimately determine the success of our season," the coach says.

"We feel that in most of the other areas, we are pretty solid going into the season," he concludes.

The Gretna game will get underway Friday night at 8 p.m. at Gretna.

Raider Roster

NO.	PLAYER	HT.	WT.	Grade
10	Williams, Jim	5'7"	157	12
12	Johnson, Paul	5'10"	139	10
15	Agee, Phillip	5'6"	127	12
18	Ferguson, Kevin	6'2"	191	12
22	Turner, Ricky	5'4"	152	10
23	Hamlett, Steve	5'6"	153	11
25	Williams, Jody	5'9"	155	12
28	Moore, Lewis	5'8"	125	10
33	Fleshman, Dennis	5'10"	166	12
34	McIvor, Pete	5'7"	145	12
37	Edmonds, Alan	5'10"	158	12
41	Wingfield, Jay	5'11	166	11
43	Bryant, Rodney	5'8"	160	12
45	Ferguson, Gary	5'8"	179	11
51	Hamlett, Allen	5'10"	170	12
53	Bollinger, Phil	5'7"	135	10
54	Marshall, Randy	5'6"	163	12
55	Scruggs, Todd	6'2"	180	11
57	Willis Roger	5'7"	145	10
62	Robinson, Tommie	5'11"	192	12
63	Bennett, Tim	5'10"	177	12
64	Morgan, Antione	5'7"	183	11
65	Simpson, J.D.	5'8"	193	11
66	Miller, Ricky	6'33	191	11
67	Paulette, Robert	6'0"	200	12
68	Miller, Jeff	6'4"	217	12
72	Banks, Carl	5'10"	193	10
75	Osborne, Rick	5'7"	147	10
77	Moore, Alphonse	5'10"	199	11
78	O'Brien, Jeff	5'9"	158	10
79	Almond, Scott	5'10"	173	11
82	Kelso, Ron	5'11"	139	10
85	Mayberry, Greg	6'1"	195	12
86	Kendrick, Kevin	6'2"	168	10
26	Vassar, Harold	6'0"	159	11
44	Abbitt, Tyrone	5'8"	153	11

Tambra Hamlett and Lori Coggins — Managers

Football Schedules

APPOMATTOX VARSITY FOOTBALL

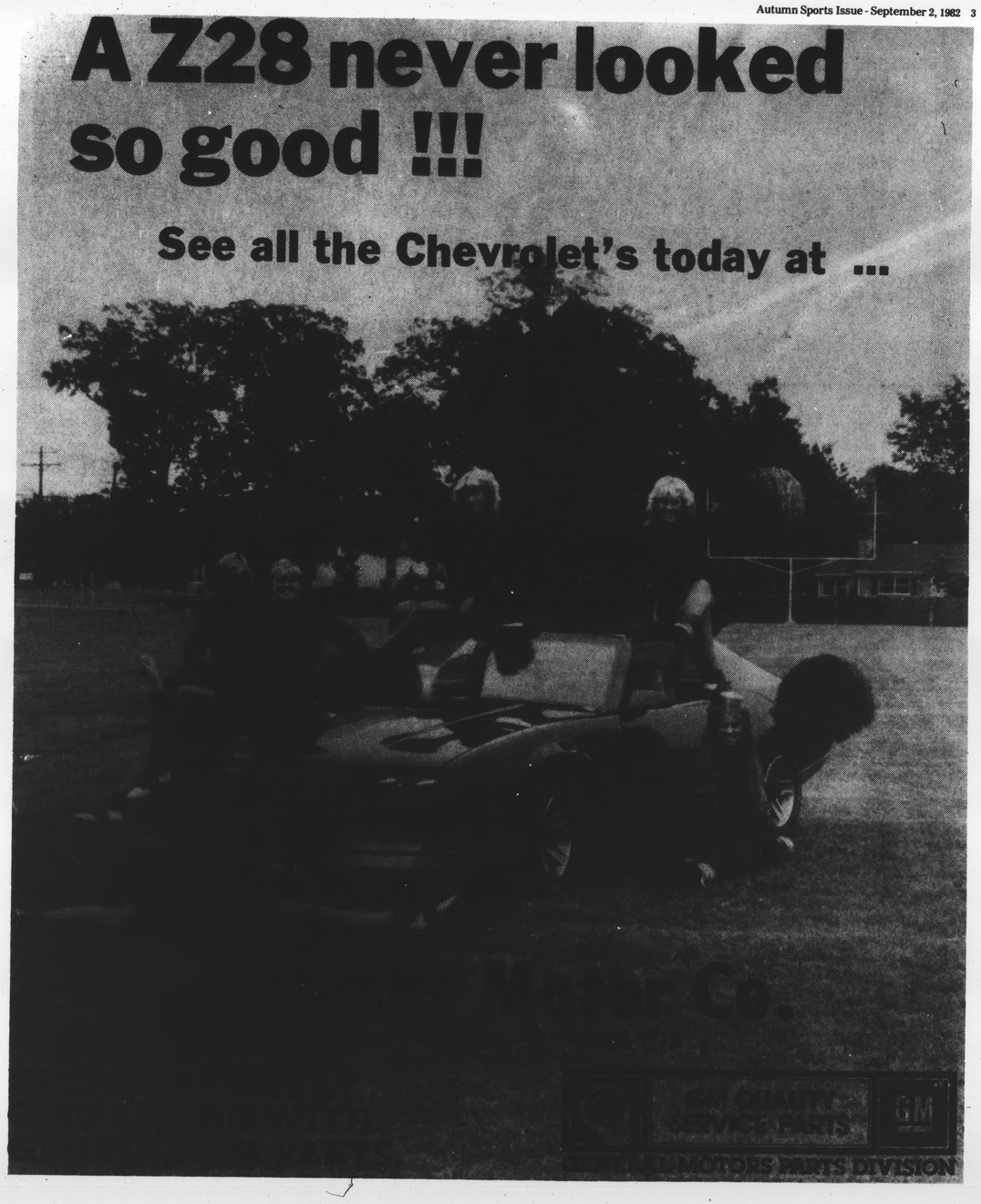
Date	Opponent	Place
Sept. 3	Gretna	Away
Sept. 10	Randolph Henry	Away
Sept. 17	Nelson	Away
Sept. 24	Liberty	Home
Oct. 1	Rustburg	Away
Oct. 8	Buckingham	Home
Oct. 15	Jefferson Forest	Away
Oct. 22	Brookville	Home
Oct. 29	Altavista	Away
Nov. 5	W. Campbell	Home

All games start at 8 p.m.

APPOMATTOX J.V. FOOTBALL

Date	Opponent	Place
Sept. 1	Prince Edward	Away
Sept. 9	Randolph Henry	Home
Sept. 16	Nelson	Home
Sept. 22	Liberty	Away
Sept. 30	Rustburg	Home
Oct. 7	Buckingham	Away
Oct. 14	Jefferson Forest	Home
Oct. 21	Brookville	Away
Oct. 28	Altavista	Home
Nov. 3	Amelia	Away

All games start at 6 p.m., except Nottoway and Amelia, which start at 7 p.m.

A Z28 never looked so good !!!

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